29th March 1928]

Number of buses licensed by the President, Chingleput District Board.

* 1813 Q.—Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of buses licensed by the President of the Chingleput District Board (1) in the year 1925-26 and (2) in the years 1926-27 (till 1st February 1927), respectively, for each of the following routes:—

(i) Madras to Poonamallee via Aminjikarai,

(ii) Madras to Sriperumbudur,

(iii) Poonamallee to Avadi,

(iv) Chingleput to Tirukkalikkunram,

(v) Tirukkalikkunram to Madras;

(*b*) the persons to whom, during the said two years (till 1st February 1927) licences were issued for each of the above routes;

(*c*) the reasons for refusing licences to others who applied for the same for the above routes during the above period;

(*d*) the amount of licence fee collected for the first three quarters during 1926-27 for each of the above routes and the distance of each of the above routes;

(*e*) the amount of licence fee charged for the first three quarters of 1926-27 for the following routes and the distance of each route:—

(i) Madras to Tiruvottiyur,

(ii) Madras to Saidapet,

(iii) Madras to St. Thomas' Mount,

(iv) Madras to Pallavaram;

(*f*) whether the Government is aware that the President granted monopoly to a particular party for nearly five routes and charged the monopolist lesser licence fees than for others;

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Chingleput received complaints during 1926-27 against the President for refusing to grant licences to certain persons and for granting monopolies to others, and whether the District Magistrate called for remarks from the President in this respect;

(*h*) whether it is a fact that the Government passed a G.O. Mis. No. 439, L. & M., dated 16th September 1926, pointing out that according to law he could not restrict the number of buses on any road;

(*i*) whether it is a fact that the President protested against the Government Order;

(*j*) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate of Chingleput requested the President to give effect to the Government Order immediately after its issue, and the President replied that he could not do so; and

(*k*) whether the Government are aware that out of 55 routes classified by the District Board in their resolution, dated 27th January 1927, only 14 routes are open to all, and that the rest are restricted?

A.—(*a*)—

	1925-26.	1926-27.
(i) Madras to Poonamallee via Aminjikarai.	2	1
(ii) Madras to Sriperumbudur ...	...	6
(iii) Poonamallee to Avadi	3	1
(iv) Chingleput to Tirukkalikkunram.	...	2
(v) Tirukkalikkunram to Madras ...	1	...

(*b*) The Autocar Speciality Company were given the licences for all the routes.

(*c*) In 1925-26 there was no competition; the number of buses had to be limited owing to the condition of the roads concerned.

(*d*) The fees realized for each of the routes and their distances are given below :—

	Miles.
(i) Rupees 197	11
(ii) Rupees 4,258	23
(iii) Rupees 308	6
(iv) Rupees 460	7¾
(v)	9

Fees were charged at the rate of 6 pies or 4 pies per mile according to the miles traversed by each motor vehicle and its seating capacity.

(*e*) Fees were charged at the rates referred to in the answer to clause (*d*) excepting for item (ii) in the case of which no account was taken of mileage within municipal limits.

The distances of the several routes are as follows :—

(i) One mile.

(ii) One and a half miles.

(iii) Four miles.

(v) Eight miles.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) The President was told that he could not restrict the number of buses on a road by refusing licence, provided the grant of licence was otherwise unobjectionable.

(*i*) The President requested the Government to reconsider their orders.

(*j*) The President, District Board, reports that he is not aware of any such correspondence.

(*k*) Yes.